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Souvenir Programme  
OF  
Shakespeare's  
COMEDY,

"THE WINTER'S TALE"

AS GIVEN BY

MR. HANNIBAL A. WILLIAMS  
OF New York.

New York? 1891

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HANNIBAL A. WILLIAMS,  
98 Lexington Avenue,  
New York.

"Apprehend nothing but jollity."

— *The Winter's Tale* — Act IV, Scene IV.

✓  
MR. HANNIBAL C. WILLIAMS,

OF NEW YORK,

"He was provided to do us good."

— *The Winter's Tale* — Act IV, Scene IV.

IN A RECITAL OF

SHAKESPEARE'S COMEDY.

'THE WINTER'S TALE.'



"If it be not too rough, it will please plentifully."

— *The Winter's Tale* — Act IV, Scene IV.

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[illegible]

*Scene* — Sometimes in Sicilia; sometime, in Bohemia.

TIME OF ACTION, ABOUT SIXTEEN YEARS.

NOTE. — "The Winter's Tale" is the longest of all of Shakespeare's comedies, having 3,309 lines; and, in respect to length, the eighth in Shakespeare's works of every class.

"Pray you,  
\* \* \* tell us a tale."

"Come on and do your best."

— *The Winter's Tale* — Act II, Scene I.

## PROGRAMME :

"The storm begins."

— *The Winter's Tale* — Act III, Scene III.

### Synopsis — ACT I. — THE SUSPICION.

King Polixenes comments upon the length of his visit to King Leontes, and proposes to return home to Bohemia at once. Leontes urges him to remain longer, but to no avail. Leontes begs the queen to aid in persuading Polixenes to prolong his visit. Hermione supplements her husband's pleading. Polixenes consents to remain. (NOTE. — Polixenes' yielding to the queen's entreaties, after having refused the king's invitation, causes Leontes to question Polixenes' motive, and all the queen's subsequent attentions to her honored guest are misinterpreted.) Leontes seized with a jealousy resembling madness. Mamillius welcomed and summarily dismissed. Leontes charges Camillo with a wicked knowledge of the queen's perfidy. He extorts a promise from Camillo to poison Polixenes. Camillo unwittingly discloses to Polixenes the cause of Leontes' strange demeanor. Polixenes alarmed. He hastens from the court with Camillo for guide and speedily returns to Bohemia.

"You'll know more."

— *The Winter's Tale* — Act IV, Scene IV.



*Reproduced from engravings  
on steel, after the Boydell Illus-  
trations.*

THE WINTER'S TALE,  
Leontes, Hermione, Mamillius, Etc.  
ACT II, SCENE I.



"He's at it now."

— *The Winter's Tale* — Act III, Scene III.

## Synopsis — ACT II. — THE ACCUSATION.

Leontes questions his lords as to Polixenes' hasty and unceremonious departure. His flight interpreted as a confession of his guilt. Polixenes suspected of conspiring with the queen to take Leontes' life. Leontes orders the removal of Prince Mamillius from the custody of the queen. Hermione's honor assailed. She is consigned to prison. The lords of the court severely rated by the king for urging the queen's release on the plea of her innocence. Leontes sends two messengers to Apollo's temple at Delphos for an oracle touching the queen's behavior, confidently believing it will confirm his opinion of her guilt. The king retires but cannot sleep. He fancies the queen's death will bring him peace of mind. His reverie disturbed. Paulina pushes the guards aside and, entering the king's private apartments, presents him with his child, prematurely born during the queen's incarceration. Leontes enraged. He disowns the child and drives Paulina from the court. The king, now insane with madness, orders the burning of the infant and its mother. The king dissuaded from this cruelty by the supplication of his counsellors. The infant conveyed by Antigonus to a far-off desert shore, and, by the king's command, left there to its own protection. Antigonus and the sailors employed in the expedition perish. Return of the messengers from Delphos. Leontes orders the convening of the court.

"Is it true, think you?"

— *The Winter's Tale* — Act IV, Scene IV.



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THE WINTER'S TALE.

Leontes, Antigonus, Lords, Infant, Perdita, Etc.

ACT II, SCENE III

"Follow me and mark what way I make."

— *The Winter's Tale* — Act V, Scene II.

### Synopsis — ACT III. — THE VINDICATION.

A court of justice. The session opened by the king who is instigator, prosecutor and judge. Hermione summoned. The indictment read. The queen appears without counsel. Her masterly defense. Hermione appeals to Apollo for judgment. Cleomenes and Dion sworn. The oracle produced. The queen acquitted. The king censured. The lost infant proclaimed the only heir to the throne. The queen in an ecstasy of delight on hearing the verdict. The haughty king invokes the wrath of the gods by denouncing their decision. Mamillius' death announced. A part of the oracle quickly fulfilled. Hermione swoons and is carried out unconscious. The king is informed of her death. Leontes' fiendish cruelty begins to dawn upon him. He promises to atone for his misdeeds. Paulina reappears and enumerates his crimes, and presents them in their enormity. The infant found and adopted by a kind-hearted shepherd.

"Resolve you for more amazement."

— *The Winter's Tale* — Act V, Scene III.



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THE WINTER'S TALE.

Florizel, Perdita, Polixenes, Camillo, Etc.

ACT IV, SCENE III.

"Is there not time to whistle off these secrets  
But you must be tittle-tattling before all our guests?"

"Charm your tongues and not a word more." — *The Winter's Tale — Act IV, Scene IV.*

## Synopsis — ACT IV. — THE SEPARATION

Bohemia. The palace of Polixenes. (NOTE — An interval of sixteen years elapses between the third and fourth acts and the scene is shifted from Leontes' court in Sicilia to that of Polixenes in Bohemia.) Camillo begs to return to his native country. Polixenes refuses to grant even a leave of absence. King Polixenes hears rumors of his son Florizel's attachment to a young shepherdess. The king anxious to know the truth of the report. The king proposes to visit the shepherd and his reputed daughter *inognito* accompanied by Camillo. A road near the shepherd's cottage. Meeting of Autolycus and the clown. A merry rogue's trick. The shepherd's cottage. The sheap-shearing festival. The loves of Florizel and Perdita revealed. Perdita welcomes the unknown guests. Re-appearance of Autolycus as a peddler. The courtship. The king reveals himself. Florizel threatened with the loss of his inheritance. He prefers Perdita's love to the succession to the throne. Camillo furnishes the prince with letters to the King Leontes and assists him to escape to Sicilia with his bride, and thither Camillo shortly afterwards conducts King Polixenes.

"What I did not well, I meant well."

— *The Winter's Tale — Act V, Scene III.*



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THE WINTER'S TALE.

Leontes, Polixenes, Florizel, Perdita, Paulina, Etc.

ACT V, SCENE III

"But to make an end."

— *The Winter's Tale* — Act IV, Scene III.

### Synopsis — ACT V. — THE RECONCILIATION.

Sicilia. A room in the palace of Leontes. Paulina and others assure the penitent king that his sixteen years of repentance has atoned for his misdeeds. Arrival of Florizel and Perdita from Bohemia. Leontes gives the couple a generous welcome. The king attracted toward Perdita by something beside her singular beauty and sweetness. King Polixenes arrives with Camillo in search of Florizel. Arrival of the old shepherd and his son in search of Perdita. The shepherd presents unmistakable proofs of his reputed daughter being none other than King Leontes' long-lost daughter. The king's joy in recovering his child clouded by the remembrance of the supposed death of the queen. A chapel in Paulina's house. Paulina receives Perdita, King Leontes and his train. The supposed statue of Queen Hermione unveiled. Paulina commands the statue to move. The living queen descends from the pedestal and embraces her daughter and the king. The oracle fulfilled.

"I am sorry I have thus far stirred you; but I could afflict you further."

— *The Winter's Tale* — Act V, Scene III.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

Mr. Hannibal A. Williams was born in Rutland, Vermont, in 1854, and is a descendant of French and English parentage. He was educated in the common schools of his native state, and at Troy Conference Academy, Poultney, Vermont. After teaching several years in the graded schools of Fair Haven and West Rutland, Vermont, and making a professional tour through New England, he was appointed Instructor of Elocution in the Albany (New York) Academy, which position he resigned in 1882 to devote himself entirely to public reading. During the first three years of Mr. Williams' professional career, his work consisted of the preparation of miscellaneous selections and the giving of over three hundred entertainments in towns near Albany. Since 1885 he has resided in New York, 98 Lexington Avenue, and each year he has added one of Shakespeare's plays to his repertory. He has read *over one thousand nights*, chiefly in the New England and Middle States. For the past two seasons his recitals have been limited strictly to the Shakespearian plays, in which field probably no other American reader has achieved so large a measure of success in so short a period.

### MR. WILLIAMS' REPERTORY

#### INCLUDES

*THE TEMPEST.*

*THE WINTER'S TALE.*

*THE TAMING OF THE SHREW.*

*JULIUS CÆSAR.*

*OTHELLO.*



\* \* "Of this allow,  
If ever you have spent time worse ere now,  
If never, that Time himself doth say  
He wishes earnestly you never may."

— *The Winter's Tale* — Act IV, Scene I.

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